



ON THE ROAD AGAIN

DIRECT ACTION UNDERGROUND



This was written to be a straight forward guide on living underground along with additional information on how to support comrades that are underground. This article was written with no particular struggle in mind; it can be tailored to suit your needs. The revolution will not be won by activists from only one movement -- it has many faces.

How many of you have heard glamorous or romantic tales of comrades underground? The reality is that it's not romantic. It takes a lot of hard work and will place you and others under constant stress. Some people don't have a choice in the matter when they go under; others are there because they know they can get a lot of important work done. Still others may be wishing they were underground, and then there are many of you who know you just couldn't do it.

People may go underground for one or more of the following reasons:

- to avoid a subpoena to a trial or grand jury which may result in imprisonment
- to avoid an arrest warrant and possible imprisonment by the government
- to avoid the threat of physical harm or death by oppressive enterprises or the government
- to carry out direct action against oppressive enterprises or the government

The more time you spend preparing, in advance of actually going underground, the better chance you have of staying free and alive. Even if **you** are not thinking of going underground, your planning can benefit others. You never know when a close friend of yours might have to go on the run and needs a clean set of I.D.; perhaps someone underground needs to borrow your cabin at the lake, or needs money to survive to the next city or set up the next action. Or **you** may need to go underground for a prolonged time. If you are going underground to avoid an arrest warrant, unfortunately they're usually not about to stop looking for you in six or twelve months. Their "manhunt" may slow down with time but the file will still be open. Or you may have chosen to go underground for a particular time period (e.g. three years) to provide as much direct action against our oppressors as possible.

One of the most important and toughest things when underground is cutting direct contact with friends and family. If you're on the run or underground you can't just phone up or visit your friends and family -- that is the first place the government will be looking for you. Have no illusions about the government. They will put your friends', families' and comrades' homes under surveillance and wait for you to show up. They will tap your loved ones' phones and wait for you to call or for someone to inadvertently provide information on your whereabouts. They will tail everyone close to you and wait for them to meet with you. They will offer your friends and family enormous amounts of money, hoping that they might betray you.

The most secure method is to have contact only with others underground, but in practice it is very difficult to do this. Communications with friends and comrades offering support is best done through indirect methods discussed later. Most people (unfortunately too many people in the movement), do not fully understand what kind of security people underground need. For that reason you have to be extremely careful whom you give information to. The rule to follow is "**need to know.**" If a person does not absolutely need to know something, **do NOT tell them.** Very few (if any) people need to know where your next safe house is, what name you're using, where you get your money and equipment, where you've been, what you've done, etc. Friends, family and comrades can help protect those underground by not asking prying questions and not speculating or gossiping with others.

"If we accept revolution, we must accept all that it implies: repression, counter-terrorism, days filled with work, nervous strain, prison, funerals." -George Jackson

APPEARANCE

You will need to **change your appearance as soon as possible** after going underground, particularly if you are trying to avoid an arrest warrant. The less you look like your former self, the less chance of being recognized by someone that wants to lock you up for 20 years (or worse.) One of the easiest things to change is your hair. If it is long you can cut it short, part it differently, try a perm or straighten it, or dye/bleach it another color. Men can shave their facial hair off or grow a beard or mustache. Glasses can totally change your appearance and can be filled with clear glass lenses. For those who already wear glasses, try a different style of glasses or replace your glasses with contact lenses. Use tinted contact lenses to change your eye color. Clothes can also radically change your appearance. If the government is looking for the most radical looking person in town, they aren't likely to notice the clean cut woman or man wearing something fairly conservative. A dress or shirt and tie can do wonders in certain circumstances. Cross-dressing may be an option, if you can pass as the opposite gender. You never know, it might save your life. If you have any tattoos that you feel should be hidden, get in the habit of wearing long sleeved shirts or sweaters; if necessary, distinctive tattoos can be covered up with another tattoo or removed permanently by a dermatologist.

People with light skin color might also consider darkening their skin. In the late 1960s, a white journalist used shoe polish and medication to darken his skin and write about his experiences as a man with black skin in racist southern America; he found that even his close friends did not recognize him once he had darkened his skin color and cut his hair short. Be careful when applying potentially toxic substances such as shoe polish to your skin. Consult with a trusted dermatologist or doctor for the best method of changing your skin tone. Do not use fake tan or any other product that blotches or produces an obviously false color--you will only draw attention to yourself.

TRANSPORTATION

Getting from point A to point B can sometimes be quite a chore. If you're wanted by the government and have to leave the area in a hurry, driving your own vehicle may be the only option available. One fairly quick change that you could do is to re-paint your vehicle another color. It may not look beautiful but if it gets you out of the city or state/province untouched, who cares. Another short-term fix can be to borrow a similar make and model vehicle's license plate and switch with your vehicle's plates. The license plate will usually be noticed and reported stolen fairly quickly, so leave the area as soon as possible. If you have more traveling to do, change to new plates in 24 hours or less.

If possible, don't take your own vehicle at all. Get someone to drive you in another vehicle. You can arrange for someone to sell your vehicle for you; have the money sent where it

can be picked up and buy/register another vehicle under your new identity. Theft of a vehicle is also an option if all else fails. Methods of theft are relatively easy to learn, although a little too lengthy to go into here. Books and knowledge are available on the subject -- check the list of resources at the end of this.

Other methods of transportation include buses and planes. As long as you haven't just gone on the run (e.g. the feds raid your house while you're out at the store or you've just escaped from prison) then either are fine. Flying under another name is simple as long as you are not crossing any federal borders.

Crossing the federal border is usually a mere formality, though being underground will always make it tense. The USA/Canada and USA/Mexico borders do not require passports. You will usually need a driver's license and birth certificate; another piece of photo I.D. would be helpful. If crossing on a plane or bus (particularly a bus) you will have to talk to a customs officer who will usually ask a few simple questions: where were you born, where do you reside, and the destination and length of your trip. If you are traveling on the bus you may get other questions: how much money do you have with you, what is your employment, do you have rent receipts--they can turn you back if they think that you will be stranded in the country you are traveling to (not enough money) or don't have anything to come back to (no residence or job.) It's best to say you are going for a short trip (weekend or week) to a location that is relatively close to the border (e.g. from Toronto to New York, rather than Memphis.) If you think you may get hassled, bring along some forged rent receipts and/or pay stubs, just in case.

Driving across the border is usually the easiest way to get across. Common questions are usually just your citizenship, destination and length of your trip. When crossing borders, be as calm as possible. **Know all your personal info (I.D.).** Carry enough money, in cash or traveler's cheques, to adequately cover your alleged trip. When going across a border it will usually help to look as clean-cut and middle class as possible--in terms of your personal appearance and your vehicle's appearance. Do NOT take the risk of smuggling drugs or other contraband across the border unless you feel that the need for these items (and the low possibility of purchasing them at your destination) warrants such a high risk to your cover.

There are still unregulated border crossings in some areas along the USA/Canada border. If you have no I.D. and have to get to another country, the only option is to sneak across at an unregulated border crossing, go cross-country hiking or get someone to smuggle you across.

COMMUNICATIONS

While underground, **you can't just pick up the phone and call your friends or family**, and you certainly can't visit them at home. Psychologically it may become necessary to

maintain a few close contacts with other fugitives or friends aboveground. This is also necessary if you plan to continue direct action against oppressive enterprises or the government. Some type of communication system should be set up so you can contact support and vice versa. Telephones are a huge security risk; never call anyone at home, as calls can be taped and also traced to your location. All types of phones, including cellular, can be listened to. Ideally telephone use for direct communication should be cut out entirely.

Personal rendezvous should take place at places that are not known hang-outs for radicals or have a lot of police attention for one reason or another. Bad choices include movement gatherings and conferences where there are bound to be police, informants, and/or other surveillance.



A good method for long distance communication is the use of post office or private mailboxes. Everyone you communicate with should have a safe mail drop in another name. The majority of private mail box rental businesses will rent you a box without identification. Give them an assumed name (preferably not the one you're currently using) and check to make sure you can receive mail addressed to other names -- under the guise of accepting mail for other people. Do not use your new I.D. to rent a mailbox; if for some reason the police search a supporter's house and find your mailbox address, if it is not in your new name then your new I.D. will not be blown. **Always cover up behind yourself--you have to, if you want to survive underground.** Most private mailbox businesses also offer forwarding services for a charge. What better way to maximally protect yourself: rent a mailbox in Minneapolis and give it as your safe address to your close friends & support network, then get the mailbox business to forwards all mail from that address to another safe mailbox in Las Vegas, where you can pick it up (for more information on renting a mailbox see the section, Acquisition of New Identification.)

Telephones can be used for indirect methods of communication if necessary. If you're going to be in one area for a while you can rent a pager. Usually I.D. is required, and if you have several sets it may be a good idea to use a name other than the name you are currently using. Voice and data pagers are available for areas ranging from a city-wide, state/province-wide or satellite pagers that can page you anywhere in the country. You can use a numeric code or code word/phrases for messages, depending on what type of pager you have. Don't forget that pagers, like phones, can be tapped and listened to. Make sure that everyone who calls your pager number calls from a pay phone a long distance from where they live/work and uses a different pay phone each time. If calling long distance, make sure coins are used to make the call. Pay phones can and are tapped very easily.

Another method of safe communication involves renting a voice mailbox (VMB) from a phone or private company. One benefit of a VMB is that you can be anywhere to call and retrieve your messages. Make sure both you and anyone calling you follow the same rules as you would use with pagers, as explained in the previous paragraph.

A quick word on calling cards: never use your own to make any calls while underground, or to call anyone who is underground. Records are kept and are easily checked. Pirate calling card numbers are often available for use. Use caution when using a pirate calling card number, in terms of where you call; always call from a pay phone. Telephone Company security personnel may try calling the numbers called with a stolen calling card number and ask them who called on certain dates and times. Make sure the person you're calling is either very 'forgetful' or has a good excuse, e.g. "Sorry I don't know who called, eight other people live here." The more a pirate calling card number is spread around, the more calls will be made on it. This makes any patterns harder to discern but also cuts the life of the number fairly short.

A safe, indirect, non-technical method of communication is the dead mailbox. Dead mailboxes can be anything: a hole in a brick wall, a paper towel dispenser in a public restroom, under a shelf in a public library... Your contact only needs to know where to check for letters. You would leave a message (preferably coded) at a dead mailbox for your contact to pick up. A rough pickup schedule should be set up, e.g. once a day, once a week, first and third Mondays of the month, etc. Your contact can leave a message for you in the same dead mailbox or in a totally different dead mailbox. This method can be fairly secure and can be used when you don't want or need to have personal contact.

Computers can be used to send e-mail over the Internet to anyone with an e-mail account, anywhere in the world. Remember that data communications can be recorded almost as easily as voice communications through a telephone line. System operators and computer hackers may be able to read your e-mail. Use encryption wherever possible. No encryption program is completely secure--the programs based on algorithms (e.g. PGP) are your best bet. NEVER rely on password-protect programs that are part of mass-produced software (e.g. WordPerfect, Excel, Filemaker); these are extremely easy to crack.

Staying a step ahead of those who are out to get you can definitely help. One important tool is a programmable radio frequency scanner. All law enforcement agencies, security companies, etc. across North America use radios for communications. By monitoring the frequencies used by law enforcement in the area, you will hear the police getting and responding to all sorts of calls, alarms, surveillance, stake-outs, etc. It may take a little while for you to become familiar with police lingo, but in a short time you will understand the majority of what is being said. Make sure you get a model that has at least 20 programmable channels; 50-200+ programmable channels are preferable. AOR, ICOM and Uniden are recommended brands. Get a portable model (of course) and look out for models that have any of the 800-950 MHz range blocked out--try to get one that can scan this range. Some local police agencies, and many federal agencies, are changing to frequencies in the 800-950 MHz range. The U.S.A. has now introduced legislation to force manufacturers to block out the cellular bands. Other countries do not have these regulations; if all else fails, try purchasing scanners from unregulated countries through mail-order. Unfortunately, some federal agencies (e.g. the FBI) are now using scrambling equipment on almost all radio broadcasts.

For those of you who want more information, books are available in most local libraries. Guides that list specific frequencies for everything -- police, security companies, military, logging companies, cellular and portable phones, etc. -- can be bought from your local radio/CB or Radio Shack store, and may be available at your local library. The following is a list of the frequency band ranges which government and law enforcement are entitled to use:

25.3300-25.6000 GOVT. FREQ.
26.4800-26.9500 GOVT. (FREEBAND)
27.5400-28.0000 GOVT. (FREEBAND)
29.8900-29.9100 GOVERNMENT
30.0000-46.6100 BUSINESS BAND, GOVT.
138.0000-144.0000 GOVT. (MILITARY BASES)
148.0000-151.0000 GOVT.
151.0000-156.2500 BUSINESS BAND (POLICE, FIRE)

157.4500-160.2000 BUSINESS BAND (POLICE, FIRE)
162.0000-174.0000 GOVT., SOME BUSINESS
225.0000-329.0000 GOVT. (MILITARY AVIATION)
225.0000-400.0000 BOTH CIVILIAN AND GOVT.
335.0000-400.0000 GOVT. (MILITARY AVIATION)
400.0000-420.0000 GOVT. (BASE WALKIE/TALKIES, PAGERS, ETC.)
450.0000-470.0000 BUSINESS BAND (POLICE, FIRE, RADIO AND TV REMOTES)
932.0000-935.0000 GOVT./PRIVATE SHARED
941.0000-944.0000 GOVT./PRIVATE SHARED
1215.0000-1300.0000 GOVERNMENT

DOCUMENTS AND SAFE STORAGE

You never know when the government might be breaking down the doors or, even more nastily, breaking in, legally or illegally, when you're not at home. Maybe someone you don't know downed a transmission tower in your county or burned the new animal laboratory under construction to the ground. That new set of I.D. and a copy of 'The Militant Vegan' or 'Live Wild Or Die' sitting on your dresser won't make a good impression, whether or not you know anything about the action. So, needless to say, you should keep **anything that is in any way incriminating well hidden**. Under your mattress is not a good spot. Your freezer, toilet, or any other appliance is also not a good spot. Basically, hiding anything in your residence is a bad idea. If you must, then put some work and thought into constructing a good secret hiding place; doors/walls/floors can be hollowed out to make great spots, etc.

Make sure anything and everything incriminating is always put away: papers, files, diaries, photos, letters, address books, magazines or books advocating illegal activity, blueprints, tools, plans, maps, lists, etc. Stock up on anything you may need while underground -- money, identification, clothes, food, tools, gear, ammunition, etc.--and keep these stored in safe places.



An optimal method of safe storage is to use buried caches. Military ammunition boxes work well, are inexpensive, are waterproof, and come in different sizes. PVC plastic tubing of 6-10" diameter, any length, with end caps glued on, also works well. Wrap everything in several layers of sealed plastic bags and if possible put wood chips or, better yet, silica gel, to absorb any moisture. If you're storing firearms or ammunition, pack them in gun grease and/or oiled rags. Now all you need is an accessible, private place to bury your cache; not your backyard. Use your imagination. Do NOT bury your cache in an area scheduled for development--ever try digging a cache out from under several tons of concrete? Also do not bury your cache near a body of water that could flood. If you are planning on long-term burial, keep tabs on the condition of your caches (e.g. landslides, flooding, developments) and potential threats to accessibility.

Other methods of safe storage of materials include rental storage lockers and safety deposit boxes. Make sure you rent them in another name. Don't forget to destroy or safely store those rental receipts--you don't want to get arrested with them in your pocket. Also be aware that both lockers and safety deposit boxes can be searched with a search warrant, if the police know where to look.

One further place of storage is a safe storage house. One of the most secure methods for a safe storage house is one where the person(s) living there are not involved in any political or illegal activity, but can be trusted 100% -- these can be hard to find. Make sure you can trust the resident(s) with taking care of whatever you are storing. Also make sure that they are comfortable with storing item's (they don't need to know exactly what these items are) that they potentially could be imprisoned for if caught with them. A good method is to place whatever you would like to store (I.D., money, plans, maps, etc.) in a heavy envelope, seal the envelope, and then place it inside another envelope; seal the second envelope (don't forget to prevent those damn fingerprints.) Wherever you are, when you require your materials all you need to do is contact the safe storage house (through a secure method of communication) and have them mail the envelope to a safe place that you can pick it up at.

It is worthwhile thinking about storing your caches in several locations. This way if one location is discovered, your cache is somehow ruined, or the location becomes inaccessible, you have not lost everything.

SAFE HOUSES AND SHELTER

Where you're going to stay every night is at least as important as all the factors listed previously. A safe house is extremely important to activists who are underground. It gives them a place to rest, recuperate, and also saves them money. If you've decided to stay in one spot for a while, it may be possible to rent an apartment or house for a short period of time. Rent using another name if possible, or have a trusted supporter rent it, again in another name if possible. It is likely that you will have to move fairly frequently, often traveling hundreds of miles a day, to stay a couple of steps ahead of the law. Supporters can help by letting people underground stay at their homes for a day or two, longer if possible. Or how about your lake or mountain cabin?

For those who open their homes to those underground, **security is of the utmost importance.** It's best that you don't tell anyone who's "visiting" you -- not in person and not over the phone. If you must, tell inquiring friends that an aunt or cousin is visiting. Think of how you would feel if "Jane" got arrested leaving your home because you mentioned her name over the phone, or to the wrong 'friend'. If you want to keep safe houses available for future use try not to create too much of a burden for those you are staying with and be clear on what their limitations are.

When you are on the move and no safe houses are available, other options include camping, renting a motel/hotel room (in another name), hostels, women's and men's shelters or sleeping in your vehicle.



FUNDS

Sad as it is, we come to the most important item needed. Without it very little can be accomplished. Money is needed to survive in this world, especially when you are underground. If you're lucky you will have put away some money in advance, knowing the day may come when you'll need it. Carrying cash is the necessity when you're underground -- you can't just go to the bank when you want to withdraw some money. Don't use your bank or credit cards at all when you are underground -- they leave easily traced records. If you're going on the run, you might want to withdraw as much money from your savings as you can before you leave town. You could also leave your bank card and PIN number with a supporter to withdraw money and then send the funds to you. Money can be safely wired from one location to another through cheque cashing businesses that offer Western Union and similar wire services. Postal money orders can also be used to send money to a safe address.

Working is possible if you're going to be in one location a while and only if you can find a job where they will pay you under the table. You can work safely on someone else's Social Security/Social Insurance number but usually doesn't take long to raise suspicions somewhere, so this is only a short term option.

Other methods of funding to think about include; fraud, theft, growing and/or selling drugs, sex trade, and expropriations. These

and other illegal methods of funding are too complex to discuss here.

PRESS

While underground, press work may be necessary: to claim responsibility and explain the necessity; to correct lies put out by the government and opponents; or just to let the aboveground know you are alive, in good spirits, and carrying on the struggle.

Security should be of the utmost concern when doing any type of press work. Mailing out some type of communication is the most common method. When doing any mailing, whether you are sending news clippings, just a short claim of responsibility for an action, or a full-blown communiqué, the following guidelines should be used. Send your reports on plain/common paper. either print in capital block letters (no curves at all, not for D, R, S, C, Q, O, B, etc.) or use a public typewriter or computer (use a common font) that many people have access to. Don't send originals; make copies that are fingerprint-free. Destroy all originals. Wear gloves or use other methods at all times so your fingerprints are not on the paper, envelopes, or stamps. Do not give your address, and don't lick the stamp or envelope -- wet it with a sponge. Consider a system of mailing materials in envelopes inside larger envelopes to a trusted contact who will mail the items from another location to further camouflage your area of operations. You should expect that the authorities will open, read, and check for fingerprints/forensics on any mail you send.

Extreme care should be taken with other types of press work; phone calls, video tapes, audio tapes, photos, etc. Do the benefits outweigh the risks? Make sure you are not giving the cops information with which they can arrest you or charge you with a crime. Are there recognizable features in video tapes/photos, voice prints from recorded phone calls/audio tapes/video tapes? Phone calls can be traced to a specific location or number. Interviews with reporters may be something else you may consider, but this can be very dangerous unless you have a very secure plan and have some degree of trust in the word of the journalist. Don't forget that a grand jury could be waiting for the journalist who interviews you, with eighteen months contempt or perjury charge if s/he admits contact with you but does not answer the grand jury's questions.

IDENTIFICATION

One of the most important tools is the new you -- identification. For a good method of acquiring new I.D. see the following article on identification in Canada and the United States. Other methods of becoming a new person include manufacturing your own birth certificates and driver's licenses and other types of supporting I.D. (which are usually easier to produce than driver's licenses.)

Identification can be made by anyone who has a little skill, a lot of time and access to a computer, photocopier, and /or camera equipment. Nowadays some I.D. is very hard to falsify, but you should still be able to do a fair variety of I.D. cards. Using a real I.D. card, mask out the name, address, and signature with thin strips of paper that are the same color as the card itself. Do a neat gluing job. Next, photograph the card, using bright overhead lighting to avoid shadows, or xerox

or color photocopy it. Use a paper of a color and weight as close to the real thing as you can get. If you use phony state and city papers such as a birth certificate or driver's license, choose a state/province that is far away from the area in which you are located. Have a

complete understanding of all the information you are forging. Dates, cities, birthdays and other data are often part of a coding system. Most are easy to figure out by studying a few similar authentic cards.

One such system, is the coding for place of issue of Social Security cards. The first three digits denote the state of issue, and the number groups are distributed as follows:

001-003 New Hampshire	237-246 North Carolina (also 232)	433-439 Louisiana	526-527 Arizona	Mariana Islands,
004-007 Maine	247-251 South Carolina	440-448 Oklahoma	528-529 Utah	Philippine Islands
008-009 Vermont	252-260 Georgia	449-467 Texas	530 Nevada	587-588 Mississippi
010-034 Massachusetts	261-267 Florida	468-477 Minnesota	531-539 Washington	589-595 Florida
035-039 Rhode Island	268-302 Ohio	478-485 Iowa	540-544 Oregon	596-599 Puerto Rico
040-049 Connecticut	303-317 Indiana	486-500 Missouri	545-573 California	600-601 Arizona
050-134 New York	318-361 Illinois	501-502 North Dakota	574 Alaska	602-626 California
135-158 New Jersey	362-386 Michigan	503-504 South Dakota	575-576 Hawaii	627-645 Texas
159-211 Pennsylvania	387-399 Wisconsin	505-508 Nebraska	577-579 District of Columbia	646-647 Utah
212-220 Maryland	400-407 Kentucky	509-515 Kansas	580 Virgin Islands	648-649 New Mexico
221-222 Delaware	408-415 Tennessee	516-517 Montana	580-584 Puerto Rico	700-728 Railroad Retirement
223-231 Virginia	416-424 Alabama	518-519 Idaho	585 New Mexico	
232-236 West Virginia	425-428 Mississippi	520 Wyoming	586 Guam, American Samoa, Northern	
	429-432 Arkansas	521-524 Colorado		
		525 New Mexico		

Many I.D. cards use an IBM Selectric typewriter to fill in the individual's papers. You can buy a used machine at fairly minimal cost; the proper type ball can be installed in 5 seconds on any IBM Selectric machine. When you finish the typing operation, sign your new name and trim the card to the size of the original. Correct size plastic laminate is available if the real I.D. comes laminated. Although this might sound fairly simple in theory, in practice manufacturing false I.D. is a lot more work than other methods of obtaining I.D..

There are many machines used in manufacturing photo I.D. that are commonly available for purchase. They vary in size, price, and ease of operation. Some of the more elaborate systems produce extremely secure photo I.D., and are correspondingly expensive. Some produce a piece of photo I.D. that's a finished product. Others produce a card that has to be laminated before issue. One model has a laminator built in. Some use a Polaroid-type instant print material, while others use a negative-positive color film. Some companies that sell photo I.D. machines are listed in the resources section.

For new identification that doesn't have a date of issue on it, it will be more realistic if it looks as if you have had it in your wallet for x number of years instead of two weeks. Premature aging can be easy as folding, scuffing, tearing, bending, dirtying, or staining your new I.D. Be careful not to overdo it or to ruin it.

Identification can be bought through various sources, but more often than not you'll be getting stolen I.D., which should not be used for a long period of time. In rare cases I.D.

can be purchased with any name you want on the I.D. -- this type of I.D. is generally more expensive than stolen I.D. and is usually forged. In the U.S.A., particularly in San Diego, /Los Angeles/San Francisco, 'green cards' (allowing you to legally work in the U.S.A.) can be readily purchased. Beware of all I.D. you purchase; quality can vary greatly.



Assembling several sets of identification is better than limiting yourself to one set of I.D. If you have several sets of I.D., you can take your pick of who you would like to be; when the government is getting a little too close or your cover has been blown, you can become someone else without too much trouble.

Make sure you have some supporting I.D. A good set will have a driver's license, social security (USA)/social insurance (Canada) card, and from 2-6 other pieces of supporting I.D.: state/province I.D. card, video store membership, library card, fishing license, college/university I.D. card, cheque cashing card, etc. You may have noticed that birth certificate was not included on that list. How many of you actually carry your birth certificate in your wallet right now? Some people do, but many don't. It is up to you.

While underground, make sure you **carry only one set of I.D. at a time**. Make sure all other I.D., including that of your former life, is in a very safe place. Be careful of whom you give your new name to. **Know your details:** make sure you know your new name (including middle names), your new birthdate, your astrology sign, and your new age (if different from your former life.) Do you know your new mother's maiden name? If you're ever stopped briefly by the police or others, they may try to trip you up by asking your astrology sign or how old you are. Have it memorized, play it real calm and hopefully you'll make it through.

Generally, people are caught for breaking some minor offense, such as speeding or jaywalking. During the routine arrest procedure, their fingerprints give them away. Thus for anyone underground having a good set of I.D. and being careful about violations become an important part of your security. It is a good idea to carry a couple hundred dollars in cash on you at all times. Often if you are arrested you can bail yourself out and be gone before the fingerprints or other identification checks are completed.

ACQUISITION OF NEW IDENTIFICATION or THE NEW YOU

The first step in becoming the new you requires going to your local public, College or University library. Now pick out which year and month you want to be born in; you can even pick out your birthplace. It is possible to pick a place of birth in another state/province than you're in or will be in. Your options may be limited to which city newspapers the library has back far enough (to your desired date of birth) on microfilm. Look through the birth announcements for a name you like. Once you have a name, check to see what other information is listed. What you need varies depending on what state/province you will be applying for I.D. in, but the basics are: your father's first and last names; your mother's first, last (usually the same as the father's) and maiden name (usually in brackets or with the prefix nee); the date of birth, and the name of the hospital you were born at. Write it all down, including any extra information they may list. You may be surprised at how much information they do contain. If the name you chose doesn't have enough information, keep looking; you're sure to find another one that does. Below is a good example of what you will find in most newspapers:

Bernie and Janice (nee Smith) Mustard along with big brothers, Jeffrey and Justin are thrilled to announce the arrival of Kristen Jennifer, born November 23, 1966 at 0323 h weighing 6 pounds 10 ounce. Proud grandparents, Daniel and Marlene Smith and George and Jenny Mustard. Special thanks to Dr. McNally and caseroom nurses Lisa and Michelle at the New York General Hospital.

ADDRESS

Once you have all your details on your new name, you'll need an address. Grab your yellow pages and look under MAILBOXES - RENTAL and you'll find a list of private mailbox rental businesses. Go to a phone booth and call one of the listed businesses, ask about the address that mail will come to; you want to have an address that's going to look like an apartment or house and not 'Box 1234'. Usually mail will still get to your box if you put 'suite' or '#' in front of your box number to make it look like an apartment, instead of 'box'. Take your pick and go armed with your new name and some money. Some mail rental businesses may ask for I.D.; your best excuse is that you've lost yours. Private businesses seem to be better than chain stores from experience. If they won't rent you a mailbox without I.D. say "thanks" and pick the next one in the phone book. You should be able to rent one without too much work. The new you now has a new address.

What follows are specific methods for the U.S.A. and Canada. Similar methods will work for many other countries with a little work to figure out the specifications for I.D. used outside the U.S.A./Canada.

BIRTH CERTIFICATE

Your first piece of I.D. to get is a birth certificate. Birth certificates are the #1 priority for I.D. because they are relatively easy to get and are the foundation for almost all supporting I.D. You have your choice of two methods for acquiring a new birth certificate;

METHOD 1: Apply in person. This is usually fine if you're only getting one birth certificate or if you just happen to be visiting some distant city. You have to be in the state/province in which your new identity was born (in the U.S.A. also preferably the city in which you were born.) Go to the government office where you can replace your birth certificate (Vital Statistics office) and fill out the form as best you can with all the pertinent information about the new you; your parents full names, birthplace, birthdate, name of hospital born at, address, and reason you need a new birth certificate. The actual information you will need varies depending on what state/province you will applying for I.D. in **Have your info memorized**; it won't work to keep looking at that piece of paper in your hand. If the clerk asks for any information you may have missing (if they even care) be prepared with a simple and convincing story, e.g. "I don't remember my Dad's middle name" or "I never knew my mother." Pay the nice cashier the fee. In the U.S.A. you can walk out with your replaced birth certificate. In Canada your new birth certificate is mailed to you and will result in getting your new birth certificate much faster than method 2.

METHOD 2: This method should be used when you don't feel confident about talking to an actual clerk or when you have to acquire several birth certificates. Go to the government office where you can replace your birth certificate (Vital Statistics office) and ask for an application form for a replacement birth certificate from the state/province you were born in. If the clerk asks why you need the form, tell him/her "It's for a friend". The forms may be available from a counter so you can pick them up without even having to talk to a clerk. If possible get several copies or if this is not possible make several photocopies of the original form. And by the way, watch those fingerprints, keep everything you send in print-free. Fill out the form as best you can, with your new identity information and new address. Enclose a postal money order for the amount applicable, usually \$10-20. Seal everything in a stamped envelope (watch those fingerprints) and send it off to the address listed on the form in the state/province you were born.

Now while you wait for your brand new government issued birth certificate, why not fill out applications for a few more and send them off. Make sure you don't send a bunch at the same time; change your writing style as a precaution and don't use the same address for too many applications (2-3 at most). Also use this time to work on acquiring supporting I.D.

SUPPORTING IDENTIFICATION

USA

To get supporting I.D., move to another state that is different than the one you were born in. Acquire a new address as above. Mail yourself some letters to your new address. Use different handwritings/type on the envelopes. If you don't have the time, just find some used postage-stamp-cancelled letters and put mailing labels over the addresses and write/type yours in yours. Acquire a receipt book and write yourself out a rent receipt. Go to the government office where you can replace your Social Security card. Explain to the nice clerk how you've lost everything and all you have is your birth certificate. The clerk will likely ask for something, anything else, like a bill or rent receipt or "How about these letters, will they do?" They sure will! After the clerk processes your request, be sure to ask for a receipt which shows that you've applied for a replacement card. Make sure your number is written on it. While you're in the office, fill out one of those requests for a Personal Earnings and Benefit Estimate Statement and mail it off. You might as well know how much money you're making. Check out the driver's license/state I.D. government office to see what they require for identification. Sometimes just a birth certificate and social security number will do. Sometimes you may need another piece of I.D. like a library card.

CANADA

Go to your local Unemployment Insurance office and get an application for a replacement Social Insurance Number (SIN) card. Fill it out with the details for the new you. When you receive your new birth certificate in the mail you can send it along with your application for a SIN card to Ottawa. Or you can take your birth certificate, application and \$10 into any Unemployment Insurance office and talk to a clerk. Your new SIN card is mailed to you and usually takes 3-6 weeks. Once you have the birth certificate and Social Insurance Number card you can easily get a drivers license or other government issued photo identification. When applying for a drivers license it is best to do so in a province other than where the new you was born (so you have less of a chance of two people with exact same names and dates of birth showing up in the Motor Vehicle Registry computer when you apply.)

LIFE IN GENERAL

Life underground in general is harsh and extremely draining, to put it lightly. Children and family are a factor anyone has to seriously consider before going underground. Unless you take your family underground with you, which could make your survival significantly more difficult, you will have very little if any contact with them for some time. Until friends and family totally understand your situation it would be wise to avoid contact with them. They have to understand the level of security you need and the ever present dangers to them. They may be threatened, harassed, set-up, and bribed in the feds' attempts to find out about you.

• Be very careful of who you may inadvertently put at risk. Supporters may not be totally prepared for going to prison for five years if they happen to get caught with the package of false I.D., guns, etc. they're holding for you. Will they inform on you? You always need to make sure supporters know what type of danger they could get in. Help your supporters understand what type of danger you are facing every day. Do not needlessly place them at risk; develop other options for taking care of your needs rather than relying exclusively on aboveground supporters.

It can be difficult to keep perspective when you are facing such large risks and a constantly changing identity. Although you need to be careful about who you are in

contact with, it is essential that you have trusted friends who can help you keep track of who you *really* are, and help you to stay grounded.

One way of dealing with the stress of living underground is to romanticize it or inflate your ego, to try to convince yourself and others that you are the "supreme activist" etc. watch out for this. It is a natural reaction but a very dangerous one. All of us are fallible, all of us have weaknesses that can be lead to our downfall. Losing touch with reality can also manifest in extreme paranoia about life underground and an inability to judge the level of heat you are under.

An associated pitfall is to abuse the position you are in. Part of living underground is a reliance on aboveground supporters for money, shelter, etc. Watch to see that this does not turn into disrespecting or abusing your supporters. Just because you are living underground does not mean you should be waited on hand and foot. If you are staying with someone and you cannot contribute to financial expenses, help in other ways (e.g. housework, fixing things around the house, cooking), always paying attention to safety, of course. Remember that the relationship between the underground and the aboveground works both ways. Try to support your aboveground comrades, as much as you safely can, when they go through difficulties associated with supporting you. Do not waste the aboveground's financial, emotional, and other resources; this is unfair to your supporters and also to other activists who rely on the aboveground.

If your aboveground supporters have young children, pay attention to how much the children know about you. Children can be easily frightened by teachers, police, etc., especially if they are told their parents are in danger. Remember that police will lie to children in order to get them to talk. Even if they don't say anything about you, children may say things that result in their parents getting long jail sentences for aiding and abetting. You cannot expect most young children to understand what is happening or be able to keep tight security, so don't put them in a position where they could inadvertently hurt you or the people you have been in contact with. This does not mean that you can never have contact with children -- but do think about the risks and discuss them with the parents before spending any length of time with young children.

If you are working within a group of underground activists, pay attention to group dynamics. Even if you are fairly cognisant of oppression issues, under stress and tension you may inadvertently slip into racist, sexist, etc. roles. Be prepared to deal with these, and other interpersonal difficulties between activists, as you would in aboveground society.

Getting involved in sexual relationships while you are underground can be extremely complicated (this is not to say it is not worthwhile). Assuming that your partner knows that you are underground, the two of you will need to constantly deal with the reality that one or both of you may be busted and that you may have to be separated for long periods of time. Trust is an issue in every relationship, but when living underground trust is particularly important. If you get involved with people who are not underground, think carefully about your safety (can they be relied on to keep quiet? Is this a set-up?) and about the dynamics of your relationship. As an underground activist, you will have a certain amount of prestige and glamor -- do not abuse it. Living underground means living with a great deal of tension, this tension is your responsibility and you must find ways to deal with it that do not put others at risk.

If you are placed on the FBI/RCMP's etc. most wanted list, it's time to go deeper underground. It may be necessary to curtail your activities for a while. Change your disguise, identification and narrow your circle of contacts. In a few months, when the heat has died down, you'll be able to be more

WHAT IS TO BE DONE?

For comrades who ask, "what is to be done?" during this particular historical juncture, a (partial) list of practical things to be do.

throw a stone	slip the noose	lose a tail	cut a trail
throw another	slip the checkpoint	find your hope	leave no traces
fire a poem	hound a landlord	raise the stakes	pick a target
slash a tire	feed the homeless	change your name	launch a rocket
raise a fist	squat a building	wipe for prints	slip the noose
raise your voice	join a cell	test a theory	slip the checkpoint
raise a child	learn a kata	challenge a dogma	use your fear
wear a mask	memorize the code	change a diaper	tighten the drum
paint a slogan	cut the bars	print a leaflet	plant a thought
paint a dream	vault the fence	forge a document	tend the orchard
honor the martyrs	clear the perimeter	shelter a fugitive	cherish a tear
build a barricade	swim the river	bind a wound	commit it to memory
build a network	disarm a cop	love a friend	check your ego
claim your history	disable a missile	hold a lantern	study the map
claim the streets	create a diversion	hold your ground	deal with the traitors
sing a message	tell a joke	clean your weapon	silence the snitch
shoot a bullet	secure a march	practice your aim	start from scratch
sow a seed	walk the picket	strike a chord	carry your weight
set a fire	pick a lock	strike a blow	take on some more
break a window	bait a trap	tell the truth	fight to love
break a sweat	spring an ambush	trick the man	say it again
rent a safehouse	blow a horn	hold a meeting	cross the line
learn from workers	make a plan	take a beating	take us with you
mark the time	plan a back-up	hold your tongue	don't look back
free a p.o.w.	cut the wires	watch your back	-- Tim Blunk 6/87,
steal the files	wreck the tracks	watch the sky	USP Marion

active, but for the time, sit tight. Prepare yourself as best you can for the possibility of being arrested at some time. Even some of the best things go wrong sometimes. Have a movement attorney's phone number memorized if possible.

Part of preparing to go underground is getting yourself in shape, physically, mentally, and emotionally. You may not be able to visit a Dentist or Doctor while you are underground, so take care of dental/medical/gynecological work as well as you can before you go under. If you rely on specialized equipment (e.g. hearing aids, insulin or other medication, braces), make sure you have an adequate supply stashed before you go underground.

ABOVEGROUND SUPPORT NETWORKS

If by chance you recognize a fugitive, you must remain calm. If they deem it necessary to contact you, they will make the first move. If you are very active in the aboveground movement, chances are you are being watched or your phones are tapped, making it unsafe to make contact. If the FBI/BATF/RCMP/ local police etc. is asking a lot of questions about a certain fugitive, **get the word out quick!** Call your local movement newspapers or make an announcement at a large movement gathering; the grapevine will pass the info on to those that need to know.

Support for individuals underground is a necessary aspect of all movements. Without them life for activists underground would be quite tough. Numerous things can be done to help, including; raising funds, printing and distributing communiqués, raising awareness of the need for the underground, countering government propaganda and media sensationalism about particular individuals or the underground in general, acting as a go-between to purchase supplies that cannot safely be purchased by those underground, providing services such as dental and

medical work with no questions asked and minimal cost, supporting underground activists' families, and all of the practical items mentioned previously, e.g. setting up safe houses, safe mail drops, etc.

In almost every post office in the U.S.A. there are FBI wanted posters either in a binder or on the wall. If fugitives have made the wall it's time to start ripping down their posters.

Informants are the bane of any movement. No matter what movement you are active in, I'm sure you've heard of at least a couple. Informants in our movements come from both the government and our opponents. Some guidelines for dealing with possible informants include:

1) *Keep a careful log of your interactions with the person you are suspicious of.* Write down as many details as possible, as close to the exact wording as possible. Focus on questions that s/he asked or other aspects of her/his behavior that disturb you.

2) *Challenge behavior that disturbs you rather than challenging the motives behind the behavior.* Use the log you have kept to bring up specific examples rather than broad generalizations -- saying "I was uncomfortable when you said ____ the other day" lets the person know that you are paying attention, whereas broad generalizations are easily shrugged off as paranoia. The person who you are suspicious of may indeed be an infiltrator; or s/he may just be doing something inappropriate with totally benevolent motives. You will probably never know. It is the behavior that threatens your security, not her/his motives behind it.

3) *Do not reveal any personal or political information that you feel could be used against you or others.* Some of us are more public about our lives than other, more private folks. You are never under any obligation to provide information about yourself or others, and this can be avoided in a respectful, low-key way simply by saying "I'd rather not



discuss that right now." If you are a serious target of the police, your phone will be tapped and there may be surveillance devices in your home/car/personal belongings. However, those not underground are NOT under this intense a level of scrutiny and it is not practical to be 100% secret about your life. Consider what could *reasonably* be used against you (personally and politically) and develop clear boundaries around who you share that information with. Remember that infiltrators can only use what they are given. We can squash their efforts by not giving them what they want. Do not be naive about this, though - read about the FBI infiltrating parts of the Earth First! movement (old issues of the "Earth First! Journal" are excellent) for an example of how special agents are trained to use people's soft spots to build trust and distract from inconsistencies or questionable behavior.

4) If the person persists with the behavior that you are uncomfortable with, let the person know you do not want to have contact with them in the future. Again, be as specific and low-key as possible. There's no need to give

the person any reason to suspect that you are freaked out about the possibility of them being an informer—it is counterproductive to make them think you have something to hide. Remember that you are never under **any** obligation to work or associate with people who make you uncomfortable, for personal or political reasons -- this can be done in a respectful way that does not breed rumor and dissension.



5) Avoid calling anyone an infiltrator, police informant, etc. Unless you are absolutely sure that is their motive, based on hard evidence beyond your own suspicions. Accusations of this nature can totally destroy a movement as mistrust and division causes internal conflict and splits. Share information with other activists in terms of what *specific* behavior disturbed you. Trained infiltrators are experts at using suspicion and fear to destroy movements.

6) Trust your instincts and pay attention to inconsistencies.

7) If someone confesses to being an informant or infiltrator, try to get as much information about them as quickly as possible. Photos are extremely useful. Send this information to the movement newspapers or anyone else who could publicize it within the movement. **Only do this if you are 100% sure that the person is an infiltrator. In many movements people that are proven to be informants may be killed.** Back up your info on the person with detailed proof of your claim that s/he is an informant.

A classic counter-activist tactic is to use paranoia and fear to split groups apart. In the past, the FBI's COINTELPRO very successfully used this tactic against the Black Panther, American Indian Movement (AIM), and others by forging letters in activists' names, writing "anonymous" letters accusing activists of being infiltrators, etc.



EQUIPMENT AND INFORMATION RESOURCES

CRB Research, PO Box 56, Commack, NY 11725-0056, USA 516-543-9169 -- Books on Scanner Frequencies and Scanner Modifications/Scanner Antennas

Eastman Kodak Company, Instant Photography Division, 343 State St., Rochester, NY 14650 -- Photo I.D. machines

Identatronics, Inc., 425 Lively Blvd., Elk Grove Village, IL 60007 -- Photo I.D. machines

Identicard, PO Box 5349C, Lancaster, PA 17601 -- Photo I.D. machines

Loompanics Unlimited, PO Box 1197, Port Townsend, WA 98368, USA 1-800-380-2230 -- Books on Locksmithing/ Explosives & Incendiaries/Vehicle and Structural Break and Enter/Firearms modification/Self Defense/+ MORE

Paladin Press, PO Box 1307, Boulder, CO 80306, USA 1-800-835-2246 EXT. 21 -- Books on Locksmithing/ Explosives & Incendiaries/Vehicle and Structural Break and Enter/Firearms modification/Self Defense/etc.

Photokards, 400 Riverside Ave., Jacksonville, FL 32202 -- Photo I.D. machines

Polaroid Corporation, Cambridge, MA 02139 -- Photo I.D. machines

US Cavalry, 2885 Centennial Ave., Radcliff, KY 40160-9000, USA 1-800-333-5102 -- Body Armor/Books/Knives/ Military and Police Supply

This publication was produced as a tool for all liberation struggles. It is dedicated to all the Prisoners of War and Political Prisoners across the world.

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"It is better to err acting than to do nothing for fear of erring." - Carlos Marighella